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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

BEFORE WATCHMEN
COMEDIAN

Before Before Watchmen

Readers may have to wait for two more months for the launch of ***Before Watchmen,*** but the excitement regarding this event is already building to record levels, judging from the fan response to a panel at the 2012 WonderCon in Anaheim. In the packed panel, DC discussed the factors leading up to the ***Before Watchmen*** launch.

"The reality is, people really wanted to read more ***Watchmen,"*** DC co-publisher *Dan DiDio* said. "We knew there were a lot of people in place who were worried about the quality of the material... when you see the level of work going into this, you'll know it's something special. You will be just as excited with this material as you were with the original when it first came out."

DiDio confirmed that DC anticipated a "firestorm" of controversy regarding the prequels, so they gathered talented creators who were willing to take on the challenge of working on the controversial books.

Writer *J. Michael Straczynski* said that he particularly enjoyed contrasting the incredibly powerful Dr. Manhattan with the much more ordinary Nite Owl. "The real challenge for me with ***Dr. Manhattan*** was to write a quantum science fiction story while at the same time bringing in free choice while at the same time bringing in his childhood. The math nearly killed me!"

"When these books come out, I guarantee that you will be saying, 'This is crazy stuff!'" DC art director *Mark Chiarello* added.

Len Wein, who was the editor of the orignal ***Watchmen*** series and is the writer of both the ***Ozymandias*** miniseries and the ***Crimson Corsair*** backup series running through the various miniseries,said, "I'm having more fun with this than I've had in decades!"

Dan DiDio was asked if there were any plans for an ongoing ***Minutemen*** series after the ***Before Watchmen*** prequels come to an end. "We're waiting to see how it works—how fans react," DiDio said. "We'll go from there.

A followup question related to the existence of ***Watchmen*** in the DC multiverse, and whether it might be spun off into its own Earth. "We wanted to stay true to the material," DiDio said. "There's a very specific tone and style here. If you consider it part of another world, that's not really what we're focusing on... We want to stay true to that ***Watchmen*** world."

DiDio confirmed that DC plans to stagger the release of the various miniseries so that there is a ***Watchmen*** book coming out every week.

DC co-publisher *Jim Lee* discussed his 1-for-200 ***Before Watchmen*** variant covers. "The idea here is to do one character per cover," Lee said. "It's a police line-up, so they're all standing against the height chart. They're vigilantes in a lot of respects, so it made sense to do the line-up."

Before Watchmen begins on June 6th with the release of ***Before Watchmen: Minutemen #1*** by *Darwin Cooke;* ***Before Watchmen: Silk Spectre #1*** by *Darwyn Cooke & Amanda Conner* follows on June 13th; ***Before Watchmen: Comedian #1*** by *Brian Azzarello & J.G. Jones* on June 20th; and ***Before Watchmen: Nite Owl #1*** by *J. Michael Straczynski, Andy Kubert, & Joe Kubert* on June 27th. Each book will also feature an installment of the ***Crimson Corsair*** backup story by *Len Wein & John Higgins.*

Moebius Passes

Acclaimed comic book artist *Moebius* (the pen name for *Jean Giraud)* died on March 9th at the age of 74 after a lengthy illness. Acclaimed for his work in a variety of genres, including the Western series ***Blueberry,*** the science fiction series ***Arzach*** and ***The Incal,*** and his superhero collaboration with *Stan Lee,* a ***Silver Surfer*** miniseries, *Moebius* was an artistic visionary and stylist of unrivalled talent. DC co-publisher *Jim Lee* described him as "a huge influence and a true visionary," while Marvel CCO *Joe Quesada* praised him as "perhaps one of the greatest artists to ever walk this earth." Unfortunately, very little of his comics work is currently in print in the US—a situation we can hope will be remedied in the very near future.

CSNsider
Wondercon 2012 Edition

•Marvel has revealed that a new Captain Marvel will join the Marvel Universe this summer—and Avengers readers already know her quite well! Carol Dannvers will graduate from Ms. Marvel to Captain Marvel in a new ongoing series produced by *Kelly Sue DeConnick & Dexter Soy.* "It's a little bit of an outgrowth from ***Avengers Vs. X-Men,"*** Marvel Senior Vice President and Executive Editor *Tom Brevoort* said.

•Look for a new X-Men title, ***X-Treme X-Men,*** to spin out of the events of *Greg Pak's* ***Astonishing X-Men;*** Pak will write the new series as well, with *Steven Segovia* illustrating. "Dazzler is at the center of this book," Brevoort said. "It's Greg and that crazy 'Planet Hulk' mind of his. If you liked ***Exiles,*** you'll like this."

•*Jeph Loeb* announced that he and artist *Tim Sale* are hard at work on ***Captain America: White,*** the long-awaited limited series that follows in the tradition of their ***Spider-Man: Blue, Daredevil: Yellow,*** and ***Hulk: Gray.*** "We've just got ten more pages to go," Loeb said. "It's taken so long that everyone at Marvel is waiting until we have it all in-house."

•The Punisher... in space? That's the premise of *Frank Tieri & Mark Texeira's* ***Space: Punisher.*** The story, which takes place way, *way* outside of current Marvel continuity, finds the Punisher venturing into the cosmos on a hunt for intergalactic revenge after his family is murdered.

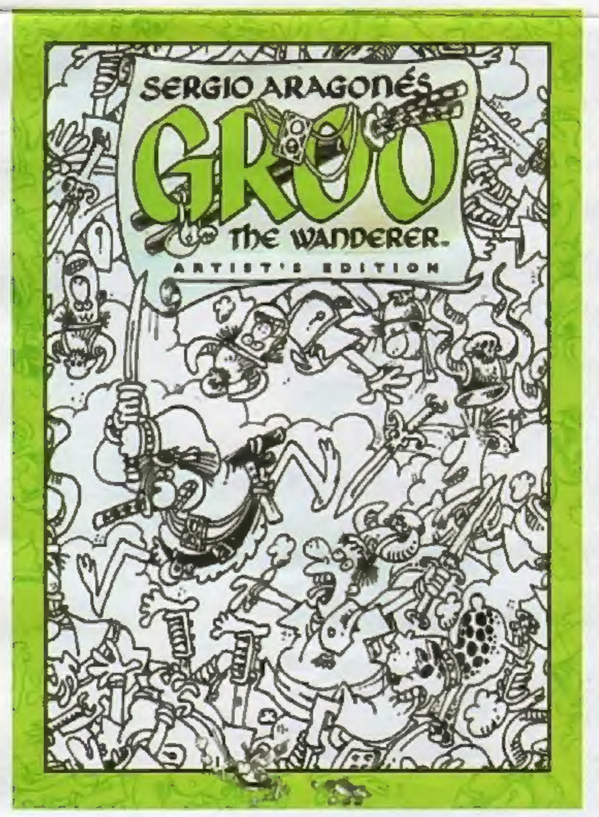
•***Animal Man*** and ***Swamp Thing*** will cross over in a major storyline beginning in the twelfth issue of each series.

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

•*Mark Waid & Chris Samnee* will launch an original Rocketeer limited series, ***The Rocketeer: Cargo of Doom,*** in August.

•IDW has landed the ***Judge Dredd*** license. This fall, they will premiere a line of book reprinting classic ***Judge Dredd*** stories as well as original series starring the veteran ***2000 AD*** character.

•IDW made a trio of ***Artists Edition*** announcements. First, a reprinting of ***Wally Wood's EC Stories Artists Edition*** is in the works for summer release. Second, the publisher will offer a ***Sergio Aragones' Groo the Wanderer Artists Edition*** this July. And finally there's a ***Jack Davis's EC Stories Artists Edition*** in the works for late 2012 release.



•*Jason Ciaramella, Nelson Daniel, & Zach Howard* are working on a new limited series based on *Joe Hill's* ***The Cape,*** an origin tale set during the Vietnam war.

•IDW launches their ***Crow*** franchise in July with a series written by *John Shirley* and illustrated by *Kevin Colden.* In addition, ***Crow*** creator *James O'Barr* is working on his own new ***Crow*** series.

•When IDW launches their ***Mars Attacks!*** comic book series in June, they'll be offering 55 variant covers—one for each card in the original Topps 1962 trading card series. The entire set will also be sold in a special package that replicates the original card box.

•IDW hinted that more ***Jericho*** comics might be on the way, continuing the story of the short-lived but critically acclaimed post-apocalyptic TV series. (IDW has already completed one limited series that continued the TV show.)

Coming Comics—DC in June

DC kicks off its line of ***Watchmen*** prequels with a quartet of first issues: ***Before Watchmen: Minutemen*** (by *Darwyn Cooke,* with cover art by Cooke, a 1:25 variant cover by *Michael Golden,* and a 1:200 variant cover by *Jim Lee);* ***Before Watchmen: Silk Spectre #1*** (by *Darwyn Cooke & Amanda Conner* with cover art by Conner, a 1:25 variant by *Dave Johnson,* and a 1:200 variant by *Jim Lee));* ***Before Watchmen: Comedian #1*** (by *Brian Azzarello & J.G. Jones,* with cover art by Jones, a 1:25 variant cover by *Eduardo Risso,* and a 1:200 variant by *Jim Lee);* and ***Before Watchmen: Nite Owl #1*** (by *J. Michael Straczynski, Andy Kubert, & Joe Kubert,* with cover art by the Kuberts, a 1:25 variant cover by *Kevin Nowlan,* and a 1:200 variant by *Jim Lee).* Each issue offers a look at the events that helped to shape the characters that readers came to know through *Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons'* ***Watchmen.*** In addition, each issue features a ***Crimson Corsair*** backup story by *Len Wein & John Higgins.* Each ***Before Watchmen*** title will be offered in a standard edition and a combo pack featuring a digital download code.

Clark Kent... dead? New villain Nimrod the Hunter is now on Superman's trail—and he's killed everything he's ever tracked. *Grant Morrison, Gene Ha, & Rick Bryant* kick off a three-part summer event storyline in ***Action Comics #10.***

The Court of Owls and the Crime Bible go to war for control of Gotham City in ***All-Star Western #10*** by *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Moritat,* while *Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez* contributes a Bat Lash backup tale.

John Constantine and Justice League Dark guest star in ***Animal Man #10*** by *Jeff Lemire & Steve Pugh,* as Buddy seeks the help of the Totems to return to his family.

The Others are reunited when the hero called Vostok-X arrives on Earth in ***Aquaman #10*** by *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Joe Prado,* while Mera learns more about Arthur's violent past.

Gail Simone, Alitha Martinez, & Vicente Cifuentes bring Barbara Gordon face to face with a villain destined to become her most dangerous foe in ***Batgirl #10.***

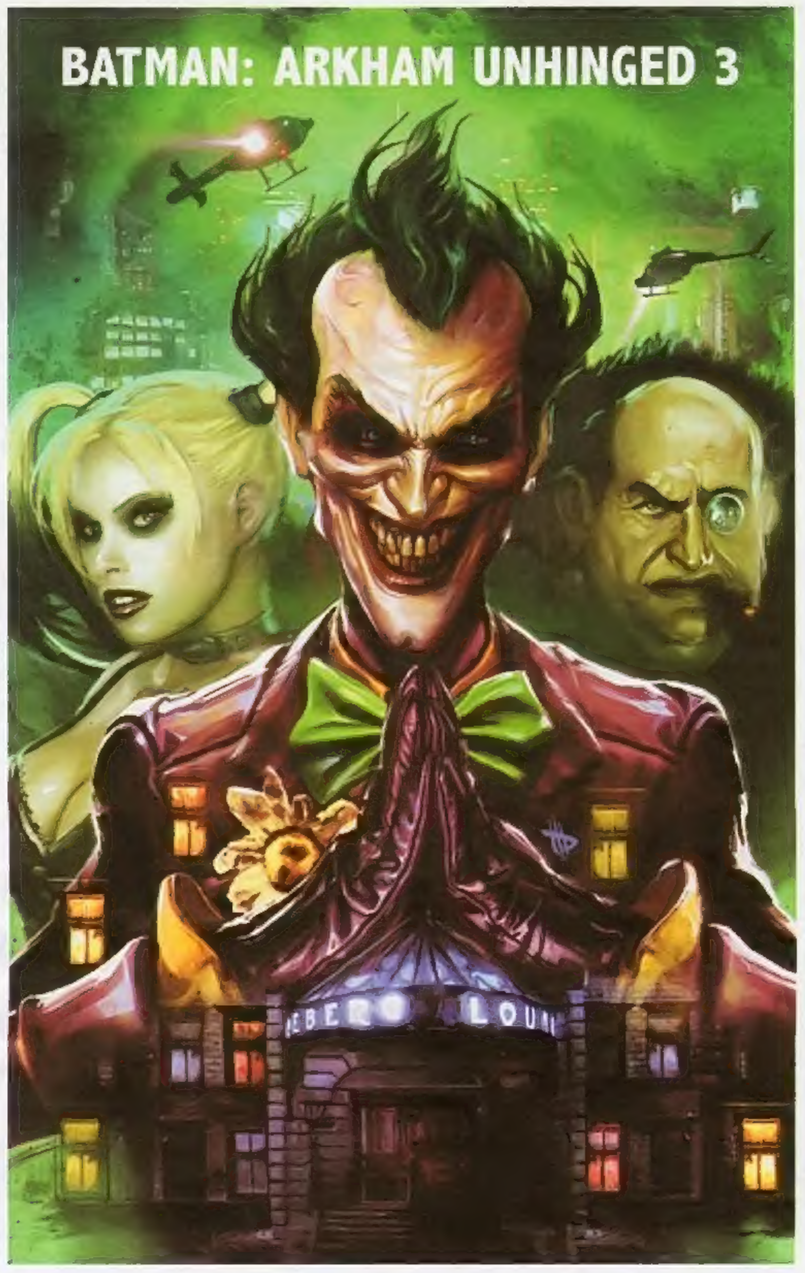
Scott Snyder & Greg Capullo reveal the evil mastermind behind the Court of Owls in ***Batman #10.***

In ***Batman & Robin #10*** by *Peter Tomasi & Patrick Gleason,* someone calls a meeting of the Robins... but who—and why? And will the exiled Red Hood answer the call?

The gang war between the Penguin and the Joker takes front and center in ***Batman: Arkham Unhinged #3.***

Batman Beyond Unlimited #5 introduces a major new character, while Superman faces off against a new generation of Luthor.

New writer *Gregg Hurwitz* makes his debut in ***Batman: The Dark Knight #10,*** joining *David Finch & Richard Friend* for a tale pitting Batman against the most deadly version of the Scarecrow he's ever seen.



Batman and Talia Al Ghul fight for the heart and soul of their child Damian in ***Batman, Incorporated #2*** by *Grant Morrison & Chris Burnham.*

In ***Batwoman #10,*** *J.H. Williams III, W. Haden Blackman, Amy Reeder, & Rob Hunter* reveal the true nature of the villain that Batwoman has been trying to find.

Batwing fights pirates known as the Jackals in *Judd Winick & Marcus To's* ***Batwing #10***—and Batman guest-stars as he discovers an unexpected member of his Rogues Gallery.

In ***Birds of Prey #10*** by *Duane Swierczynski, Travel Foreman, & Jeff Huet,* the Birds bring a gravely injured Poison Ivy to the Amazon hoping to help rejuvenate her... but they're going to need her help more to stay alive!

Blue Beetle finds himself fon the run from the DEO in ***Blue Beetle #10*** by *Tony Bedard & Ig Guara.*

Who is Chrona Mota, and what's the connection to Captain Atom's journey through time? Find out in ***Captain Atom #10*** by *J.T. Krul & Freddie Williams II.*

In *Judd Winick Guillem March's* ***Catwoman #10,*** Catwoman turns her wrath against Dollhouse, a psychotic who kidnaps children from the streets of Gotham.

SPIDER-MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER
IF MY WEBBING WON'T STOP YOU, LOKI—I'LL HAVE TO GET PHYSICAL!
IF 'TIS STOPPING THAT CONCERNS YOU—
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-19
WILL THIS SUFFICE?
I FEEL LIKE—A BUG HITTING A WINDSHIELD!
SPLAT!
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DC Nation #1, the official magazine of Cartoon Network's DC Nation, combines three comics stories with behind-the-scenes sneak peeks of DC Nation cartoons.

Kass works with her father, Vandal Savage, to catch a killer before it's too late in ***DC Universe #10*** by *James Robinson & Bernard Chang*. But is there any way to solve the case without setting Vandal Savage free?

Rob Liefeld kicks off "The Hunt for Lobo" in ***Deathstroke #10.***

While searching for Merlin in ***Demon Knights #10*** by *Paul Cornell & Diogenes Neves,* the heroes find King Arthur… both of him!

Batman struggles to defend Wayne Enterprise from espionage—and himself from the menace of Hypnotic—in *Tony S. Daniel & Sandu Florea's* ***Detective Comics #10.***

The new wielder of the H Dial begins to learn how to use it in ***Dial H #2*** by *China Mieville & Mateus Santolouco*... and he begins to suspect that there is something sinister at work!

James Robinson, Nicola Scott, & Trevor Scott present the origin of the Earth Two Flash in ***Earth Two #2.*** And what's Michael Holt, aka Mr. Terrific, doing on Earth Two?

The Flash confronts the Weather Wizard in ***The Flash #10*** by *Francis Manapul & Brian Buccellato*. But even if the Flash survives, will Barry Allen?

In ***Frankenstein, Agent of SHADE #10*** by new writer *Matt Kindt* and artists *Alberto Ponticelli, & Wayne Faucher,* Frankenstein and the Creature Commandos must investigate suspected double-agents in SHADE field offices. Their first stop is the Untropolis – an exact copy of Metropolis that floats upside down in the 4th Cloud above Superman's home town!

Ronnie & Pozhar face off against India's officially sanctioned Firestorm, Rakshasa, in ***The Fury of Firestorm: The Nuclear Men #10*** by *Joe Harris, Ethan Van Sciver, Yildiray Cinar, & Norm Rapmund.*

Contemporary soldiers must battle pterodactyls and a tyrannosaurus rex as they struggle to understand where – or when – they are in "The War That Time Forgot," the lead story in ***GI Combat #2.*** and in the Unknown Soldier backup feature, the mystery man becomes a human guinea pig in hopes that the experiments will grant him super powers.

In ***Green Arrow #10's*** standalone story, Oliver Queen confronts the villain Doctor Cognate, courtesy of creators *Ann Nocenti & Oliver Nome.*

Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy reveal everything about the Indigo Lanterns in ***Green Lantern #10,*** leading into a shocking turn of events in July.

John Stewart is on trial for murdering his fellow Green Lantern – but does even Guy Gardner think he's guilty? Find out in ***Green Lantern Corps #10*** by *Peter Tomasi & Fernando Pasarin.*

The New Guardians reunite in ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #10*** by *Tony Bedard, Tyler Kirkham, & Batt.*

Artist *Miguel Sepulveda* joins *Peter Milligan* with ***Green Lantern: Red Lanterns #10,*** which continues the confrontation with the Star Sapphires that began in last month's ***Stormwatch #9.***

Grifter is joined by Deathblow and Cheshire to face off against the Daemonites in ***Grifter #10*** by *Rob Liefeld, Frank Tieri, Scott Clark, & Dave Beaty.*

As the vampires continue their journey across the country to their homeland they encounter an ancient enemy, the Order of the Van Helsings, in ***I, Vampire #10*** by *Joshua Hale Fialkov & Andrea Sorrentino.*

Geoff Johns & Jim Lee reveal the identity of the Justice League's newest and deadliest foe in ***Justice League #10;*** the backup feature by *Geoff Johns & Gary Frank* continues the introduction of Shazam! into the DC—New 52 universe.

John Constantine , Zatanna , Deadman, Andrew Benet, Madame Xanadu, Black Orchid, and Dr. Mist set up their new HQ, the House of Mystery, in ***Justice League Dark #10*** by *Jeff Lemire & Mikel Janin*... but first, they'll have to survive an attack by the Demons Three!

In ***Justice League International #10,*** *Dan Jurgens, Aaron Lopresti, & Matt Ryan* continue "Breakdown" from ***Fury of Firestorm #9,*** pitting the JLI against the Burners, who want to create anarchy by any means necessary.

Star Boy takes a ragtag team on a suicide mission into Dominator space to rescue Brainiac 5 in ***Legion of Super-Heroes #10*** by *Paul Levitz & Francis Portela.*

What's worst—staying and dying in the present or returning to a future that may be totally different than the one they left behind? *Tom DeFalco & Pete Woods* answer that question in ***Legion Lost #10.***

The Baron time-travels straight into a trap in ***Night Force #4*** by *Marv Wolfman & Tom Mandrake.*

Nightwing begins investigating a double murder in Old Gotham that happens to feature part of his costume as evidence in ***Nightwing #10*** by *Kyle Higgins, Eddy Barrows, Paulo Siqueria, & Eber Ferreira..*

Trying to hide in the "real world" while on the run from N.O.W.H.E.R.E. and its agents proves difficult for teen metas in ***Ravagers #2*** by *Howard Mackie, Ian Churchill, & Norm Rapmund.*

Princess Koriand'r learns that her homeworld of Tamaran is in danger in ***Red Hood & the Outlaws #10*** by *Scott Lobdell & Kenneth Rocafort*—and her teammates learn that she is one of the most respected and feared commanders in all of space! This issue also launches a six-part backup series featuring The Essence.

The battle between good and evil for Mitch Shelly's soul continues in ***Resurrection Man #10*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Jesus Saiz*... and whichever side wins, Mitch loses!

Hawkman enters a gladiatorial deathmatch against three ultra-villains for the life of his friend Emma in ***The Savage Hawkman #10*** by *Rob Liefeld, Mark Poulton, Joe Bennett, & Art Thibert.*

The Shade returns to his hometown, London, to get to the bottom of the mystery of who tried to kill him in ***The Shade #9*** by *James Robinson & Frazer Irving.*

Bryan Q. Miller & Pere Perez continue the popular CW series in ***Smallville Season 11 #2*** as Clark investigates the true cause of the mysterious energy storm in space, while Chloe & Emil pursue an intriguing artifact and Lex launches a dangerous mission into orbit.

Artists *Ignacio Calero & Sean Parsons* join writer *Peter Milligan* for ***Stormwatch #10*** as Harry Tanner returns to take on Stormwatch.

It's Suicide Squad vs. Suicide Squad in ***Suicide Squad #10,*** as Basilisk raises the stakes.

Anton Arcane returns in ***Swamp Thing #10*** by *Scott Snyder & Francesco Francavilla.*

Wonder Girl, Solstice, Red Robin, Kid Flash, & Bunker guest-star in *Scott Lobdell & Iban Coello's* ***Superboy #10,*** which connects to ***Teen Titans #10.***

Supergirl finds herself trapped in the nightmarish spirit world of the Black Banshee in ***Supergirl #10*** by *Michael Green, Mike Johnson, & Mahmud Asrar.*

Superman's new foe—who can't be touched—finds a way to hurt both the Man of Steel and Clark Kent in ***Superman #10*** by *Keith Giffen, Dan Jurgens, & Jesus Merino.*

The Teen Titans are lost in an Innerworld in ***Teen Titans #10*** by *Scott Lobdell, Brett Booth, & Norm Rapmund.* And what did Solstice learn from the Legion Lost team during The Culling? Well, it has something to do with the mystery surrounding Kid Flash's origins...

Pris and the Black Razors pursue Voodoo into outer space in ***Voodoo #10*** by *Josh Williamson & Sami Basri.*

After Wonder Woman is shot through the heart, it's up to Lennox to pull his half-sister out of hell in ***Wonder Woman #10*** by *Brian Azzarello, Tony Akins, & Dan Green.*

In ***Worlds'Finest #2,*** *Paul Levitz, George Pérez, Scott Koblish, & Kevin Maguire* reveal what Huntress and Power Girl have been doing since their arrival on the New 52 earth five years ago—and we learn more details about their lives as Robin and Supergirl on their homeworld.

DC collected editions (advance solicited for July and August release) include:

- ***Absolute Batman and Robin: Batman Reborn HC,*** collecting ***Batman & Robin #s 1-16*** and ***Batman: The Return #1*** by *Grant Morrison, Frank Quitely,* and others.
- ***Batwing Volume 1: The Lost Kingdom TP,*** collecting ***Batwing #s 1-6.***
- ***DC Comics Presents Superman Adventures #1,*** collecting *Mark Millar* tales from ***Superman Adventures #s 16, 19, 22, & 23.***
- ***DC Comics Presents Superman/Supergirl #1,*** collecting *Ian Churchill*-illustrated tales from ***Superman/Batman #19, Superman #176, Supergirl #1, Infinite Halloween Special #1,*** and ***Holiday Special #1.***
- ***Demon Knights Volume 1: Seven Against the Dark TP,*** collecting ***Demon Knights #s 1-7.***
- ***End of Nations TP,*** collecting ***End of Nations #s 0-4.***
- ***The Flash Omnibus by Geoff Johns Volume 3 HC,*** collecting ***The Flash #s 201-225*** and ***Wonder Woman #214.***
- ***Green Arrow: Into the Woods TP,*** collecting ***Green Arrow #s 1-6.***

YOUR SPELL'S GOT ME STUCK— LIKE A FLY ON FLYPAPER!
WE'VE NO INSECTS HERE IN ASGARD.
YOU SHALL NOT FOIL MY PLAN TO RULE THIS REALM BY KEEPING ODIN FOREVER IN THE ODIN-SLEEP HE HAS ENTERED!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-20
MY OTHER FELLOW GODS AND GODDESSES I WILL REVIVE—
—BUT ONLY WHEN THEY SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO ME!
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- ***Green Lantern: Emerald Warriors TP,*** collecting ***Emerald Warriors #s 1-7.***
- ***Grifter Volume 1: Most Wanted TP,*** collecting ***Grifter #s 1-8.***
- ***JLA Volume 2 TP,*** collecting *Grant Morrison's* ***JLA #s 10-17, Prometheus #1,*** and ***JLA/Wildcats #1.***
- ***Mad Archives Volume 4 HC,*** collecting ***Mad #s 19-24.***
- ***Men of War Volume 1: Uneasy Company TP,*** collecting ***Men of War #s 1-8.***
- ***Showcase Presents Rip Hunter, Time Master Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Showcase #s 20, 21, 25, & 26*** and ***Rip Hunter: Time Master #s 1-15.***
- ***Suicide Squad Volume 1: Kicked in the Teeth TP,*** collecting ***Suicide Squad #s 1-7.***
- ***Superman: Action Comics Volume 1—Superman and the Men of Steel HC,*** collecting ***Action Comics #s 1-8.***
- ***Uncharted TP,*** collecting the six-issue miniseries.
- ***Wonder Woman: The Twelve Labors TP,*** collecting ***Wonder Woman #s 212-222.***
- ***Wonder Woman: Odyssey Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Wonder Woman #s 600-606.***

Coming Comics—Vertigo in June

In ***American Vampire: Lord of Nightmares #1,*** *Scott Snyder & Dustin Nguyen* return to postwar Europe and the vampire-hunting agency known as The Vassals of the Morning Star. Agent Felicia Book has had a dark life, filled with tragedy, but she has finally found peace, raising her adoptive son, Gus. But when the Vassals return for help tracking the most powerful vampire of all time, she soon learns nothing can prepare her for the threat inside The Coffin...

Scott Snyder & Rafael Albuquerque launch "The Blacklist" in ***American Vampire #28.*** 1950's Hollywood is in the grip of "The Red Scare," but in this twisted tale it's more than just the political scene that runs red. Pearl and Skinner Sweet return to the town where it all started for them, only to learn that things have gotten much worse since they left.

What is it with the Snow Queen and her love of/addiction to stories? And how does that little blue bottle imp plan to take advantage of her weakness? That's what *Bill Willingham, Phil Jimenez, & Andy Lanning* reveal in ***Fairest #4.***

Mat Johnson, acclaimed writer of ***Incognegro,*** joins forces with artist *Andrea Mutti* for ***Right State HC,*** a political thriller about a militia group that's plotting to assassinate the second African-American President of the U.S. The best chance to avert this crisis is to infiltrate the group using an ex-Special Forces war hero turned conservative media pundit named Ted Akers.

Scalped comes to a dramatic ending with #60, courtesy of *Jason Aaron & RM Guera.*

Jeff Lemire is joined by award-winning artist *Nate Powell* for "The Ballad of Johnny and Abbot," a standalone story in ***Sweet Tooth #34.***

Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited for July and August release) include:

- ***Fables Volume 17: Inherit the Wind TP,*** collecting ***Fables #s 108-113.***
- ***The Invisibles Omnibus HC,*** a massive 1500+ page tome collecting ***The Invisibles #s 1-25, Invisibles Vol 2 #s 1-22, Invisibles Vol 3 #s 12-1,*** and stories from ***Absolute Vertigo #1*** and ***Vertigo: Winter's Edge #1.***
- ***Scalped Volume 9: Knuckle Up TP,*** collecting ***Scalped #s 50-55.***

Coming in July from DC Direct

The blockbuster film is coming in July—and arriving at the very same time are a trio of ***The Dark Knight Rises 1:12 Scale Statues*** featuring ***Batman, Bane,*** and ***Catwoman.*** Each hand-painted cold-cast porcelain statue is very limited, and allocations may occur.

Blasting his way from the best-selling ***Justice League*** series, Cyborg is spotlighted in the ***DC Comics—The New 52 Cyborg Bust,*** sculpted by *Jean St. Jean.*

Sculptor *Paul Harding* continues the ***Green Lantern Animated Statue*** line with ***Green Lantern: The Animated Series Saint Walker Statue,*** depicting the hero armed with the power ring of hope.

Renowned artist Darwyn Cooke gives a modern twist to the Dark Knight's golden age style in the ***Batman: Black and White Statue by Darwin Cooke,*** sculpted by *Jon Matthews.*

The "Just-Us" League is spotlighted in the ***Mad "Just-Us" League of Stupid Heroes Series I*** action figure line, featuring ***Alfred E. Neuman as Green Arrow, Alfred E. Neuman as Superman,*** and ***Alfred E. Neuman as Aquaman.***

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in June

When yet another unexpected visitor shows up on Faith and Angel's doorstep, the pair are pulled into a quest that has the potential to give Angel everything he's been looking for. Find out just what that is in ***Angel & Faith #11*** by *Christos Gage & Rebekah Isaacs,* the first issue in a new arc executive-produced by *Joss Whedon.*

With Buffy out of town, as the only Scoobies in the vicinity, Xander and Dawn have been approached for guidance as the zompire problem spirals out of control in ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 9 #10*** by *Andrew Chambliss, Scott Allie, Cliff Richards, & Andy Owens.* Buffy needs to get herself back together and home to SF quick, but facing Slayer Simone and her unexpected ally is going to make it a rough job!

Drusilla gets her own miniseries courtesy of *Juliet Landau, Cliff Richards, & Tim Seeley.* In ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Drusilla #1,*** Dru is followed by a documentary filmmaker obsessed with her. His hunt for Drusilla, past, present, and future, sets him on a path of no return!

In *Mike Mignola, Christopher golden, & Ben Stenbeck's* ***Baltimore: Dr. Leskovar's Remedy #1,*** An army of malformed vampires controls a small Croatian town, but Lord Henry Baltimore arrives to put an end to this madness, fighting his way to their creator—a twisted surgeon akin to Moreau and Mengele!

Field agent Ashley Strode, last seen in B.P.R.D.: War on Frogs, is deployed to a Mexican village in ***BPRD: Hell on Earth—Exorcism #1*** by *Mike Mignola & Cameron Stewart.* Her mission: to thwart a demon who has commanded her to release one of its brethren or lose the soul of a small child.

Kelly Sue DeConnick & Phil Noto reboot Ghost in ***Dark Horse Presents #13,*** which also includes a *John Layman* ***Aliens*** story and more.

A drug called "spin" offers the wildest trip imaginable, followed by its users' inevitable, rapid deterioration into undead flesh eaters. Despite the side effect, the drug is so popular that the human population is dying out! With no cure to be found, the beautiful, lovesick Fatima may be the only thing standing between the survivors and the apocalypse in *Gilbert Hernandez'* ***Fatima: The Blood Spinners #1.***

Brian Wood teams with artist *Kristian Donalson* for the post-apocalyptic ***The Massive #1.*** In a post-war, post-crash, post-disaster, post-everything world, the environmental-action trawler Kapital scours the earth's oceans for its mysteriously missing sister ship, The Massive. Captain Callum Israel, a man who has dedicated his life to the ocean, now must ask himself—as our planet dies—what it means to be an environmentalist after the world has ended...

Dan Jolley & Paco Diaz bridge the gap between the ***Prototype*** videogame and its highly anticipated sequel with the 80-page ***Prototype 2 HC.***

In the original graphic novel ***Riven,*** *Bo Hampton & Robert Tinnell* introduce readers to Katya, who has been in a coma for five years. When she awakes, everything has changed. Now she is a gorgeous teenager with a mysterious, gruesome past, becoming aware of a growing, terrifying power inside her body, triggered by the full moon. Can Katy solve the

MAYBE I CAN'T BEAT YOU—BUT WHEN THOR GETS HERE—
BAH! HEIMDALL WILL HOLD HIM AT BAY FOR SOME TIME—
AND EVEN IF HEIMDALL FALLS, I SHALL HAVE AMPLE WARNING BEFORE—
BEFORE WHAT, EVIL ONE?
YOU!?
STAN LEE — LARRY LIEBER 3-21
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mystery of her blood-drenched nightmares before they become reality?

Star Wars: The Clone Wars—The Sith Hunters follows would-be Sith Savage Opress on his quest to reunite with his long-lost brother, Darth Maul. Determined to stop the brothers, the Jedi Council sends a task force of skilled Jedi to hunt them down and bring them to justice. But when you're hunting Sith, be careful . . . You might just catch them!

Jedi Knight Kerra Holt's next mission starts with a very personal and ultrasecret investigation in ***Star Wars: Knight Errant—Escape #1*** by *John Jackson Miller, Marco Castiello, & Vincenzo Acunzo.* But with the dark realities of Sith territory surrounding her, something unexpected may be taking hold of the lone Jedi!

Dark Horse collected editions include:

•***Archie Archives Volume 6 HC,*** collecting all Archie material from ***Archie Comics #s 19-22*** and ***Pep Comics #s 57-58.***

•***BPRD: Hell on Earth Volume 3: Russia TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries along with the BPRD tale from ***Dark Horse Presents #8.***

•***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 9 Volume 1: Freefall TP,*** collecting ***Buffy Season 9 #s 1-5.***

•***Conan: The Daughters of Midora & Other Stories TP,*** collecting the title miniseries and other short tales, along with a brand-new story by *Michael Avon Oeming.*

•***Conan Volume 12: Throne of Aquilonia HC,*** collecting ***Conan: Road of Kings #s 7-12.***

•***Empowered Deluxe Edition Volume II HC,*** a hefty 656 page hardcover collecting *Adam Warren's* ***Empowered Vols 4, 5, & 6.***

•***The Manara Library Volume 3 HC,*** collecting two Manara collaborations with filmmaker *Federico Fellini:* ***Trip to Tulum*** and ***The Voyage of G. Mastorna.***

•***Star Wars Omnibus: Clone Wars Volume 1—The Republic Goes to War TP,*** collecting 408 pages of adventures that were published immediately after the release of ***Attack of the Clones.***

Dark Horse launches the second wave of Marvel statues with the release of ***Marvel Classic Characters Series 2 #1: Thor,*** the first offering in a new line of syroco-style statuettes packaged in a tin box with a pinback button.

Coming Comics—Marvel in June

The Phoenix takes a host in ***Avengers Vs. X-Men #5*** by *Matt Fraction & John Romita Jr.* And as the battle moves to the moon, the tide of the conflict turns... Then, in *Jonathan Hickman & Olivier Coipel's* ***Avengers Vs. X-Men #6,*** the Phoenix comes to Earth... and the Scarlet Witch enters the fray!

Avengers Vs. X-Men tie-in books for June include:

•***AVX: VS #3*** *(Jeph Loeb, Chris Yost, Ed McGuinness, & Terry Dodson)* - The Black Widow takes on Magik, while Colossus confronts the Thing.

•***Avengers #27*** *(Brian Bendis & Walt Simonson)* - With the events of AVX raging around them, an Avenger betrays the team.

•***New Avengers #27*** *(Brian Bendis & Mike Deodato)* - Hope Summers journeys to the magical city of K'un L'un, home of the Iron Fist, to uncover her destiny.

•***Secret Avengers #28*** *(Rick Remender & Renato Guedes)* - The Avengers have devised a way to save the Kree homeworld from the Phoenix, but

HOW COULD YOU ENTER ASGARD—WITHOUT MY SENSING IT?
SPIDER-MAN'S ATTACK DISTRACTED YOU FOR CRUCIAL MOMENTS—
AND NOW 'TIS MY TURN!
FINAL-ACT CURTAIN'S GOING UP—AND I'VE GOT A FRONT-ROW SEAT!
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COVER STORY

THE MASSIVE #1
Dark Horse Comics

Brian Wood and Kristian Donaldson transport us to a world past its expiration date, where a band of noble environmentalists brave hostile waters in their search for their sister ship, ***The Massive***!

BEFORE WATCHMEN
DC Comics

DC Comics presents ***Before Watchmen***, the star-studded event that tells the heretofore untold stories that lead to the dark future of the classic *Watchmen* maxi-series. "Hurm" indeed!

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one man stands in their way – Captain Marvel!

- ***Uncanny X-Men #13*** *(Kieron Gillen & Billy Tan)* - Hope is on the run for her life, but can she outrun her destiny?
- ***Uncanny X-Men #14*** *(Kieron Gillen & Dustin Weaver)* - What has Mr. Sinister been doing while the X-Men have been fighting the Avengers?
- ***Wolverine and the X-Men #12*** *(Jason Aaron & Nick Bradshaw)* - Kid Gladiator goes after the Avengers single-handedly, while the X-Men from Wolverine's school choose a side.
- ***X-Men: Legacy #s 268*** *(Christos Gage & David Baldeon)* - Frenzy's past is revealed.
- ***X-Men: Legacy #s 269*** *(Christos Gage & David Baldeon)* -Rogue vs. Ms. Marvel.

The X-Terminated activate their secret weapon, the AOA version of the Hulk, in ***Age of Apocalypse #4*** by *David Lapham & Roberto de la Torre.*

Jean-Francois Beauleau provides the digital recoloring in ***Amazing Fantasy #15: Spider-Man,*** a 40-page oneshot reprinting ***AF #15*** and ***Amazing Spider-Man #1*** by *Stan Lee & Steve Ditko.*

Can Spider-Man sacrifice one life to save the entire planet? That's the decision he must make in part six of "Ends of the Earth" in ***Amazing Spider-Man #687*** by *Dan Slott & Stefano Caselli.*

Tom Cohen & Neil Edwards adapt this summer's blockbuster Spidey reboot in ***Amazing Spider-Man: The Movie #s 1 & 2.***

Tom DeFalco & Horacio Domingues present the story of one of the founding members of the Avengers in ***Ant-Man: Season One Premiere HC,*** an original graphic novel that chronicles the beginnings of his heroic career.

Marjorie Liu & Mike Perkins invite readers to a wedding in ***Astonishing X-Men #51.***

Dan Slott, Ty Templeton, & Matthew Clark present an "Ends of the Earth" epilogue in ***Avenging Spider-Man #8,*** guest-starring Doctor Strange, Silver Surfer, and Doctor Doom.

Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley reveal the secret of the Zodiac in ***Avengers Assemble #4.*** But what impact will this revelation have on the Avengers?

Ed Brubaker & Patrick Zircher reveal Scourge's secret identity in ***Captain America #13.***

Roland continues his journey towards the Dark Tower in his search for the Man in Black--but will he betray young Jake along the way? Find out in ***Dark Tower: The Gunslinger—The Man in Black #1*** by *Robin Furth, Peter David, & Alex Maleev.*

The Fantastic Four travel to the homeworld of the Kree Empire in ***Fantastic Four #607*** by *Jonathan Hickman & Ron Garney,* where the witness the fallout of the Kree-Inhuman war. But what does it mean for Crystal and Ronan, abandoned on Earth?

For the first time since Johnny Storm died (don't worry, he got better), the class travels to a now radically different Negative Zone in ***FF #19*** by *Jonathan Hickman & Nick Dragotta.*

You loved her in ***Kick-Ass,*** so *Mark Millar & John Romita Jr.* are spinning her off in her own five-part miniseries with the debut of ***Hit-Girl #1,*** which takes place between the events of ***Kick-Ass 1*** and ***Kick-Ass 2.***

Kevin Nowlan illustrates *Steve Gerber's* final Man-Thing story in ***The Infernal Man-Thing #1,*** a cover-to-cover story issue that kicks off the 3-part series.

Can the Knights of the Round Table, Merlyn, Arthur, and even Captain Britain himself resist the power of the infernal, industrial North!? Find out in ***Journey Into Mystery #640*** by *Kieron Gillen & Richard Elson.*

JM DeMatteis & Richard Elson do the honors on ***The Mighty Thor Annual #1,*** which finds Thor caught in a battle between two cosmic entities. Can even Galactus and Silver Surfer tip the balance?

The Defenders guest-star in "Fear the Future," which kicks off in ***New Mutants #44*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Leandro Fernandez.*

The world's greatest spy trains his troubled nephew to leave his pathetic life behind and join the elite ranks of the British Secret Service in ***Secret Service #3*** by *Mark Millar & Dave Gibbons.* In this issue, they investigate the mystery behind actor Mark Hamill's kidnapping and how it links to a dark secret from inside Mount Everest.

Spider-Man teams up with the Prowler in ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #11*** by *Brian Bendis & David Marquez.* But isn't he a bad guy?...

Marvel launches one of the biggest miniseries in two universes in June, when *Brian Bendis & Sara Pichelli* unveil ***Spider-Men #s 1 & 2.*** Who are the Spider-Men in this eponymous series? Let the speculation begin!...

Reed Richards—world's most wanted man? Find out why in ***Ultimate Comics Ultimates #12*** by *Jonathan Hickman, Sam Humphries, & Luke Ross.*

Flash Thompson learns that Venom's secret identity has been compromised... to both his enemies *and* his friends... in ***Venom #19*** by *Cullen Bunn, Rick Remender, & Lan Medina.*

Ed Brubaker reunites with his ***Daredevil*** collaborator *Michael Lark* for ***Winter Soldier #6,*** which finds Winter Soldier chasing an insane man who will become his worst enemy.

Meet the Omegas and watch them destroy Wolverine, AOA-Nightcrawler and Deadpool in ***Uncanny X-Force #26*** by *Rick Remender & Mike McKone.*

REVERSE YOUR SLEEP-SPELL, LOKI— OR FEEL MY WRATH!
WHERE IN ASGARD, SLEEP HATH REIGNED, LET ITS VICTIMS BE—UNCHAINED!
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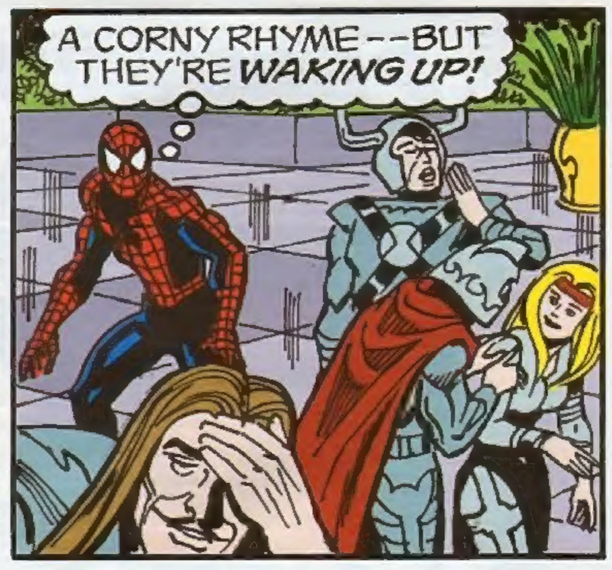

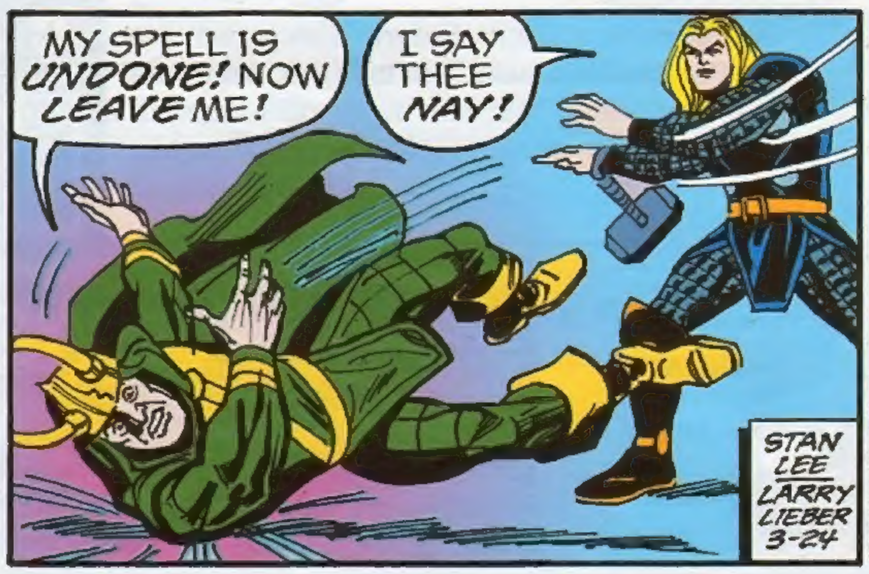
MY SPELL IS UNDONE! NOW LEAVE ME!
I SAY THEE NAY!
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Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!

Jason Starr & Roland Boschi take a look at the pre-death days of the Punisher in ***Untold Tales of the Punisher MAX #1.***

Marvel collected editions (advance solicited for July and August release) include:

- ***Alpha Flight: The Complete Series by Greg Pak & Fred Van Lente TP,*** collecting all nine issues.
- ***Amazing Spider-Man: The Movie TP,*** collecting the two-part adaptation and more.
- ***Avengers Assemble Volume 4 TP,*** collecting ***Maximum Security #s 1-3, Avengers #s 35-44,*** and more.
- ***Avenging Spider-Man: My Friends Can Beat Up Your Friends Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Avenging Spider-Man #s 1-5.***
- ***Battle Scars TP,*** collecting the six-issue miniseries and more.
- ***Carnage USA HC,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***Daredevil by Mark Waid Volume 2 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Daredevil #s 7-10 & 10.1*** and ***Amazing Spider-Man #677.***
- ***Dark Tower: The Gunslinger—The Way Station Premiere HC,*** collecting the five-part series.
- ***Defenders by Matt Fraction Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Defenders #s 1-6*** and more.
- ***Essential Spider-Man Volume 11 TP,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 231-248 & Annual #s 16-17.***
- ***Fear Itself: The Fearless Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Fear Itself: The Fearless #s 1-12*** and more.
- ***FF by Jonathan Hickman Volume 3 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***FF #s 12-16.***
- ***Halo: Fall of Reach—Invasion Premiere HC,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***Hulk: Boiling Point Premiere HC,*** collecting *Bruce Jones'* ***Incredible Hulk #s 40-49.***
- ***Incredible Hulk by Jason Aaron Volume 1 HC,*** collecting ***Incredible Hulk #s 1-11*** and more.
- ***Hulk: Heart of the Atom TP,*** collecting the Hulk's sub-molecular adventures as told by *Roy Thomas, Harlan Ellison, Chris Claremont, Bill Mantlo,* and others.
- ***Invincible Iron Man Volume 9: Demon Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Invincible Iron Man #s 510-515.***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Atlas Era Tales of Suspense Volume 4 HC,*** collecting ***tales of Suspense #s 32-38*** along with the backup stories from ***ToS #s 39-48 & 50-54.***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Iron Fist Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Iron Fist #s 3-15 & Marvel Team-Up #s 63-64.***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Uncanny X-Men Volume 5 TP,*** collecting ***X-Men #s 132-140, Annual #4,*** and more.
- ***Marvel Universe Ultimate Spider-Man: Great Power Digest,*** featuring art taken directly from the show.
- ***Marvel Zomnibus HC,*** collecting 1200 pages of Marvel Zombie action in a book so big you can use it to swat the skulls of the walking dead!
- ***Mystery Men TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***New Avengers Omnibus Volume 1 HC,*** collecting *Brian Bendis'* original ***New Avengers #s 1-31*** and much, much more in a hefty 1200+ page volume.
- ***Nick Fury: Agent of SHIELD Classic Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Nick Fury Agent of SHIELD #s 1-11*** from 1989.
- ***Spellbinders: Signs & Wonders TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries.
- ***Spider-Man: Revenge of the Sinister Six Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Spider-Man #s 15 & 18-23.***
- ***Spider-Man: Spider-Hunt TP,*** collecting ***Sensational Spider-Man #s 25-26, Amazing Spider-Man #s 432-433, Spider-Man #s 88-90,*** and ***Spectacular Spider-Man #s 254-256.***
- ***Spider-Man: Trouble on the Horizon Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 678-681 & 679.1.***
- ***The Stand Omnibus HC Slipcase Edition,*** a two-volume set that includes the first six *Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa/Mike Perkins* ***Stand*** miniseries and a heaping helping of extras.
- ***The Twelve Volume 2 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***The Twelve #s 7-12*** and more.
- ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man by Brian Michael Bendis Volume 2 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #s 6-10.***
- ***Wolverine: Back in Japan Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Wolverine #s 300-304.***
- ***Wolverine: The Best There Is—Broken Quarantine TP,*** collecting ***Wolverine: The Best There Is #s 7-12.***
- ***X-23 Volume 2: Chaos Theory TP,*** collecting ***X-23 #s 10-16.***
- ***X-Men Legacy: Back to School Premiere HC,*** collecting ***X-Men Legacy #s 260.1 & 261-265.***
- ***X-Men: The Man Who Fell to Earth TP,*** collecting ***X-Man #s 5-14, Excalibur # 95,*** and ***Cable #s 29-31.***
- ***X-Men: Schism TP,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries and ***X-Men: Regenesis.***
- ***X-Men: X-Club TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.

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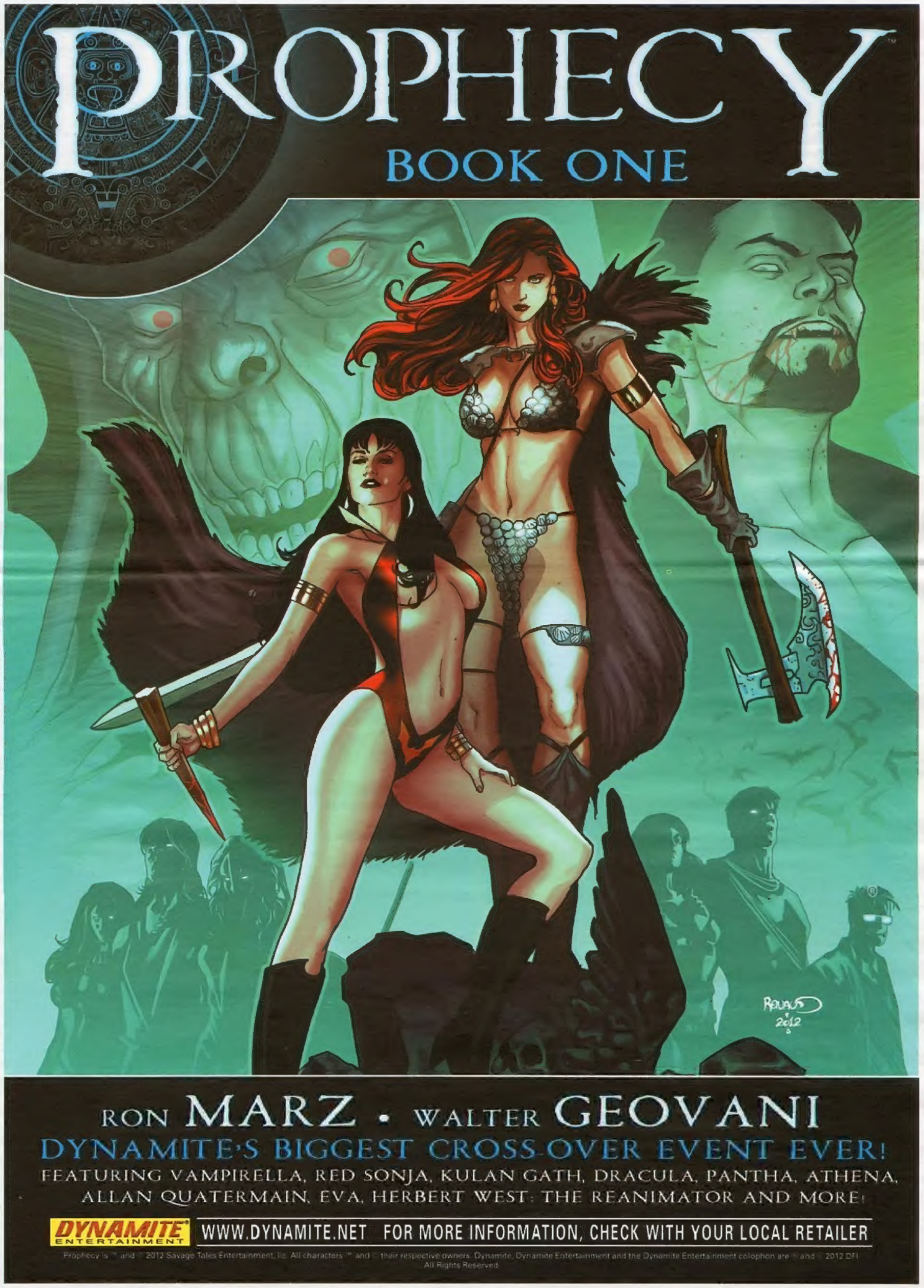
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